

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 OMB-01 COME-00 TRSE-00 OES-07  
AGR-05 LAB-04 HEW-04 HUD-01 DOTE-00 AID-05 NAS-01  
NSF-01 OPIC-03 FAA-00 ERDA-05 /107 W  
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R 180731Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2658  
INFO /AMEMBASSY SEOUL 0198

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E.O.11652: N/A  
TAGS: USIRJC, ETRD, PFOR, KS, IR  
SUBJ: IRAN-SOUTH KOREAN RELATIONS -- VISIT OF PRIME  
MINISTER CHOI

REF: TEHRAN 2149

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. SUMMARY: SOUTH KOREAN PRIME MINISTER  
CHOI KYU HAH VISITED IRAN MAY 7-12, THE FIRST VISIT OF A SOUTH  
KOREAN PRIME MINISTER. IT FOLLOWED CLOSELY THE VISIT OF SOUTH  
KOREAN FINANCE MINISTER KIM, MARCH 3-7, REPORTED BY REFTEL. ALL  
INDICATIONS POINT TO A SUCCESSFUL VISIT AND FURTHER DEVELOPMENT  
OF ALREADY CLOSE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC TIES. AGREEMENTS WERE  
SIGNED ON FISHERIES COOPERATION AND SOCIAL SECURITY. END SUMMARY.

2. PRIME MINISTER CHOI WAS HOSTED BY HIS COUNTERPART PRIME  
MINISTER HOVEYDA AND HISTINGS INCLUDED AN AUDIENCE WITH THE  
SHAH ON MAY 9 AND DISCUSSIONS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER KHALATBARY,  
ECONOMICS AND FINANCE MINISTER ANSARY AND NIOC CHAIRMAN AND  
MANAGING DIRECTOR EQBAL. PRIME MINISTER CHOI'S DELEGATION  
INCLUDED KOREAN MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY JOON CHANG,  
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VICE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS HA JONG YOON AND SPECIAL  
ASSISTANT TO THE PRIME MINISTER DOM YUL CHONG. PRIME MINISTER  
HOVEYDA, AT A DINNER HE HOSTED, REPORTEDLY SAID THAT IRAN AND  
KOREA HAVE MUCH IN COMMON IN ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ASPIRATIONS  
AND HE ASSURED CHOI THAT IRAN IS PREPARED TO EXPLORE NEW  
POSSIBILITIES AND BREAK NEW GROUND TO ADVANCE THE COMMON CAUSE  
OF THE PROSPERITY OF THE TWO NATIONS. IN STATEMENTS OF MUTUAL

IDENTITY, CHOI SAID, "OUR TWO COUNTRIES HAVE MANY THINGS IN COMMON. BOTH KOREA AND IRAN ARE PROUD OF THEIR LONG HISTORY AND GLORIOUS TRADITIONS...WE HAVE ALSO MADE GREAT STRIDES IN SOCIAL STABILITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UNDER INSPIRING LEADERSHIPS." HOVEYDA SAID, "WITH SUSTAINED DOUBLE DIGIT RATES OF GROWTH, OUR NATIONS HAVE RANKED IN THE FOREFRONT OF THE MARCH TO CLOSE THE GAP WITH THE AFFLUENT INDUSTRIALIZED SOCIETIES." HOVEYDA DREW ADDITIONAL PARALLELS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES IN THEIR JOINT STRUGGLE FOR A NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER AND BETWEEN IRAN'S SHAH-AND-PEOPLE'S REVOLUTION AND THE KOREAN NEW COMMUNITY MOVEMENT. CHOI EXPRESSED HIS "HEARTFELT GRATITUDE TO THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF IRAN" FOR THE "DEEP UNDERSTANDING" OF SOUTH KOREA'S EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT PEACEFUL REUNIFICATION WITH NORTH KOREA AND PUBLICLY URGED NORTH KOREA TO HOLD RECONCILIATION TALKS IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE A GENUINE PEACE IN THAT REGION.

3. THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE SAID THAT THE TWO COUNTRIES AGREED TO EXPAND COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF TRADE, INVESTMENT, DEVELOPMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE, FISHERIES, MANPOWER AND TECHNICAL EXCHANGES. THE PROJECTS AGREED UPON BY THE TWO COUNTRIES WILL BE IMPLEMENTED THROUGH THE IRAN-KOREA JOINT MINISTERIAL COMMISSION FOR ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION. AGREEMENTS ON SOCIAL SECURITY AND FISHERIES COOPERATION WERE SIGNED. THE TWO ALSO AGREED THAT THEIR NATIONAL AIRLINES SHALL EXPLORE "ON A PRIORITY BASIS" THE EXCHANGE OF PASSENGERS AND FREIGHT ON CONNECTING FLIGHTS AT SUITABLE AIRPORTS. THE KOREAN PREMIER EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR IRAN'S POLICY TO DECLARE THE INDIAN OCEAN A NUCLEAR FREE ZONE AND SUPPORT FOR IRAN'S VIEW THAT THE DEFENSE OF THE PERSIAN GULF SHOULD BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE LITTORAL STATES. PREMIER CHOI DELIVERED AN INVITATION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO THE SHAH AND EMPRESS FROM PRESIDENT PARK TO VISIT SOUTH KOREA AND THE INVITATION WAS ACCEPTED. CHOI INVITED HOVEYDA TO VISIT KOREA AND THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE HOPED HE COULD MAKE THE VISIT SOON. END UNCLASSIFIED.

4. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE: SOUTH KOREAN EMBASSY COUNSELOR JOUN-YUNG SUN CHARACTERIZED VISIT AS MOST SUCCESSFUL IN ACHIEVING CLOSER RELATIONSHIPS AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF CONTACT. CONTRARY TO SOME PRESS SPECULATIONS, SUN SAID NO NEW RELATIONSHIPS IN OIL SECTOR WERE DISCUSSED. THE FISHERIES COOPERATION AGREEMENT RELATES TO THE ALREADY FORMED JOINT VENTURE BETWEEN A PRIVATE KOREAN COMPANY AND IRAN'S PERSIAN GULF FISHERIES COMPANY, WHICH, HE SAID, HAS 19 VESSELS OPERATING. THE AGREEMENT SETS UP A JOINT COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES AND GUARANTEES EQUITABLE TREATMENT OF FISHING VESSELS AT RESPECTIVE PORTS. THE SOCIAL SECURITY AGREEMENT PLACES KOREANS WORKING IN IRAN UNDER THE KOREAN SYSTEM AND EXEMPTS THEM FROM IRAN'S 27 PERCENT SOCIAL SECURITY TAX. CONCEDED THAT THIS WAS A DIFFICULT AGREEMENT TO REACH, SUN SAID THAT RECIPROCAL EXEMPTIONS AND BENEFITS WOULD ACCRUE TO THE SEVERAL HUNDRED IRANIANS INVOLVED

IN THE JOINT VENTURE OIL REFINING IN KOREA. TEXTS OF THE TWO AGREE-  
MENTS SHOULD BE AVAILABLE WHEN THE RATIFICATION PROCESS IS COMPLETED.  
SUN SAID THE PREMIER'S VISIT DID NOT OCCASION ANY DISCUSSION CON-  
CERNING THE LOW COMPENSATION OF KOREAN WORKERS HERE, A SENSITIVE  
ISSUE WHICH WE SUSPECT TO BE CAUSING SOME DIFFICULTY IN RECRUIT-  
MENT OF KOREANS. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE.  
MIKLOS

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009